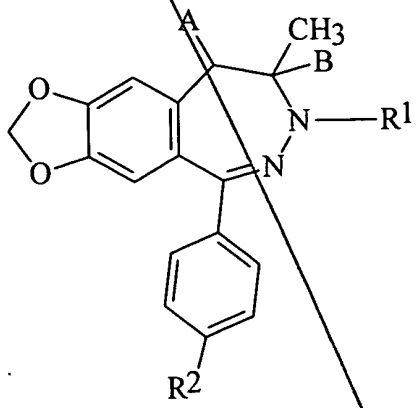
Claim 1. (Amended) A 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and

B1

C1

comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

B1
C1
Cont

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or

B1
C1
cont

a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group, with the proviso that

1) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group and p has a value of 0, then R^6 is different from a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

2) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

3) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and

B'

C' cont

R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, and

4) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 2. (Amended) A 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3] benzodiazepine compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a chloro atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by

B'
C'
cont

one or two methyl group(s), or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, with the proviso that

1) if n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the

other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, and

2) if n have a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 3. (Amended) A 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein

R^3 and R^4 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group, an amino group, a dimethylaminophenyl group or a C_{1-2} alkyl group which latter is substituted by a phenyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally a further nitrogen atom or oxygen atom, an imidazolyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the

piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group,

n has a value of 0 or 1,

m has a value of 0 or 1,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom, with the proviso that

1) if n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom, and

2) if n has a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom,

and a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 4. (Amended) A 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound as claimed in Claim 3, wherein

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom,

R^4 stands for a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group or an amino group,

n has a value of 0,

m has a value of 0,

B1 R^2 means an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 5. (Amended) A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein in formula I

Sub C2 A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^1 represents a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkoxy group(s), or

B1

C2 cont.

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituents(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, with the proviso that

1) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group and p has a value of 0, then R^6 is different from a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

2) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one

of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 6. (Amended) A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound as claimed in Claim 5, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^2 represents a nitro group or an amino group,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 means a chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolindinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and

said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxy-phenoxy)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2, with the proviso that

if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 7. (Amended) A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound as claimed in Claim 6, wherein

R^2 represents an amino group,

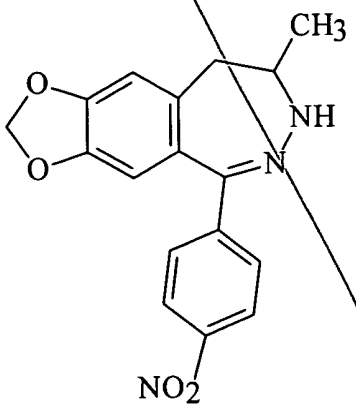
R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 6,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 8. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I,

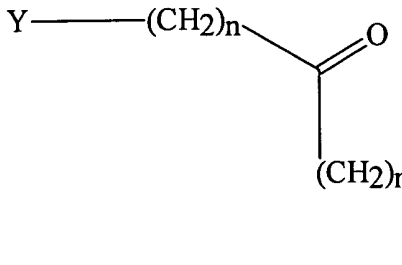
wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined in Claim 1, and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof, characterized in that

a) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a halo atom or a pyridyl group, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2, m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula III



III

is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI

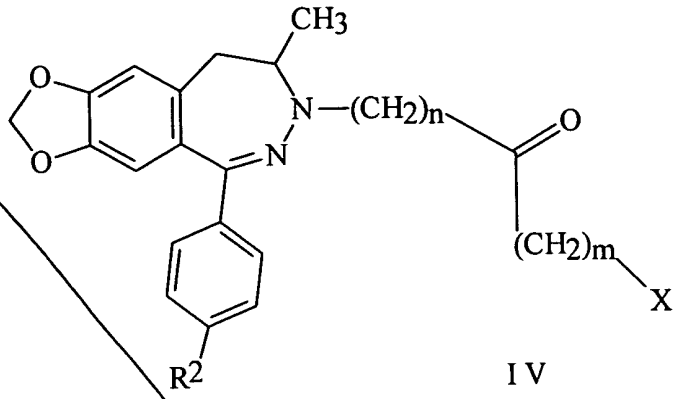


VI

wherein Y represents a leaving group, R^5 is a halo atom or a pyridyl group; or

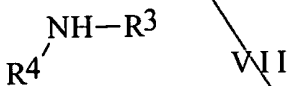
b) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for an imidazolyl group, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 0, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole; or

c) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^3, R^4, n and m are as defined in Claim 1, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI, wherein Y and R^5 represent, independently, a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, and the obtained benzodiazepine compound of the formula IV



IV

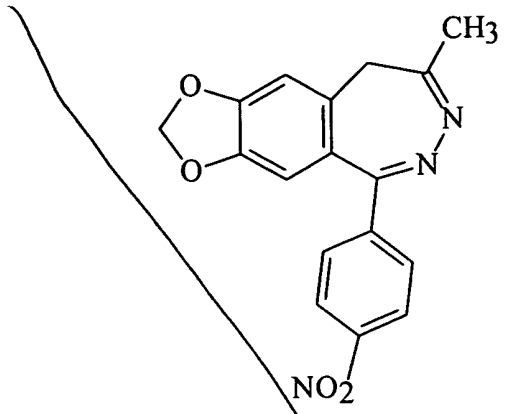
wherein X stand for a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, is reacted with an amine of the formula VII



VII

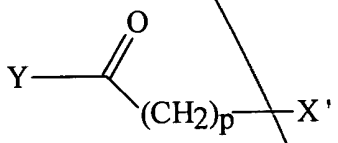
wherein R^3 and R^4 are as stated above; or

d) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula II



II

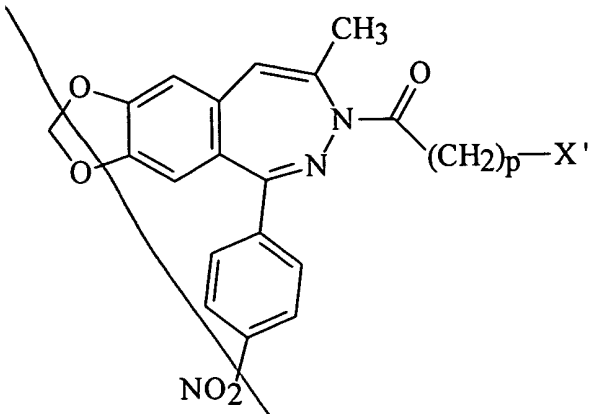
is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX



IX

wherein Y represents a leaving group, X' stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2; or

e) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein R^7, R^8 and p are as defined in Claim 1, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula II is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX, wherein each of Y and X' represents, independently, a leaving group, p is as stated above, and the obtained acylated compound of the formula VIII



VIII

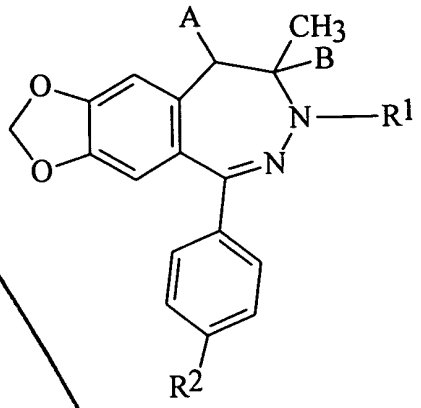
wherein X' and p are as defined above, is reacted with an amine of the formula HNR^7R^8, wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above;

and, optionally the compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents a nitro group, R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 1, is transformed into a compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 stands for an amino group, by reduction;

and, optionally the compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents an amino group, R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 1, is reacted with a C_{1-4} alkanecarboxylic acid or a reactive acylating salt thereof;

and, optionally, a base of the formula I is converted to a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt or liberated from the acid addition salt.

Claim 9. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and

B1
C3
Cont

said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4}

B1
C3
cont

alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl

B1
C3
cont

or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group, with the proviso that

1) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group and p has a value of 0, then R^6 is different from a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

2) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

3) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of

R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, and

4) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient and one or more conventional carrier(s).

Claim 10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 9 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I, wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a chloro atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

B1
C3
cont

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two methyl group(s), or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, with the proviso that

B1
C3
cont

1) if n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, and

2) if n have a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

Claim 11. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 10 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I, wherein

R^3 and R^4 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group, an amino group, a dimethylaminophenyl group, or a C_{1-2} alkyl group which latter is substituted by a phenyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally a further nitrogen atom or oxygen atom, an imidazolyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group,

n has a value of 0 or 1,

m has a value of 0 or 1,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom, with the proviso that

1) if n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom, and

2) if n has a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

Claim 12. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 11 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I, wherein

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom,

R^4 stands for a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group or an amino group,

n has a value of 0,

m has a value of 0,

R^2 means an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

Claim 13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 9 comprising an 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^1 represents a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

B1

C4 cont

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkoxy group(s), or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl (C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy (C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, with the proviso that

1) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group and p has a value of 0, then R^6 is different from a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

2) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

Claim 14. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 13 comprising an 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^2 represents a nitro group or an amino group,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

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cont

R^6 means a chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxy-phenoxy)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2, with the proviso that

if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

Claim 15. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 14 comprising an 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I, wherein

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 means of chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituent (s)

selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxyphenoxy)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

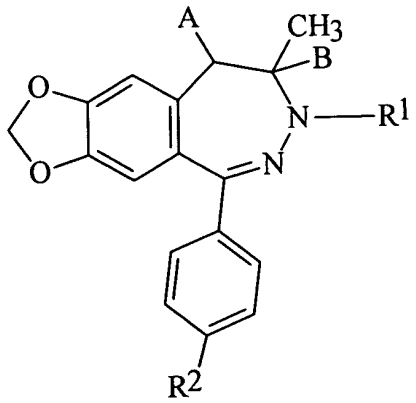
A represents a hydrogen atom,

B represents a hydrogen atom and A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9

R^2 represents an amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

Claim 16. (Amended) A method of treatment in which a patient suffering from epilepsy or being in a state after stroke is treated with a non-toxic dose of a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I,



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an

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CS-

oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula

$-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally

B1 C5 cont

substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group, with the proviso that

1) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group and p has a value of 0, then R^6 is different from a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

2) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

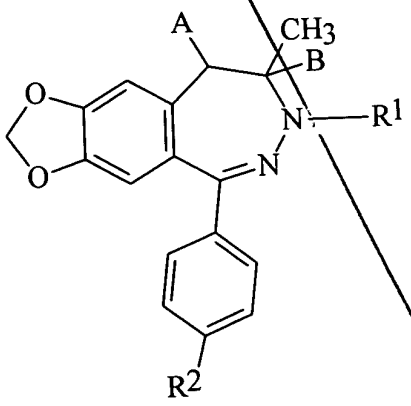
3) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, and

4) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, then the other of R^3 and

R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof.

Claim 17. (Amended) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of epilepsy or a state after stroke, characterized in that a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I,



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula

$-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

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R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or

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more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group, with the proviso that

1) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group and p has a value of 0, then R^6 is different from a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

2) if A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 stands for an amino group, p has a value of 0 or 1, and R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, then one of R^7 and R^8 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

3) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n and m have a value of 0, then one of R^3 and R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, and the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, and

4) if each of A and B stands for a hydrogen atom, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 1 or 2, and one of R^3 and R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group, then the other of R^3 and R^4 is different from a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof, together with one or more conventional carrier(s), is converted to a pharmaceutical composition.